

Appl. No. : 10/800,391
Filed : March 12, 2004

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed February 16, 2005, Applicant has amended the application as above. No new matter is added by the amendments as discussed below. Applicant respectfully requests the entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and the remarks set forth below.

Discussion of Claim Amendments

Claims 1-14 have been amended. Upon the entry of the amendments, Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. The amendments to Claim 1 are supported, for example, by Figure 1. The amendments to Claims 2-14 are made merely for clarification or to conform the claims to U.S. practice. Therefore, the amendments to the claims do not introduce any new matter. Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

Discussion of Specification Objections

The Examiner objected to the specification because of some informalities. In reply, Applicant has corrected technical errors of the specification, including those pointed out by the Examiner, as reflected in the "Amendments to the Specification" section. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Discussion of Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to Claims 2-3 because of some informalities. The Examiner asserts that in Claims 2-3, "An" should be "The." In reply, Applicant has changed the term "An" or "A" to "The" in Claims 2-14.

The Examiner also objected to Claims 4-14 under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being improper dependent claim form. In reply, Applicant has corrected dependencies of Claims 4-14 to be proper. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claim under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2

The Examiner has rejected Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The Examiner asserts that in line 2 of Claim 3 "of the or of" is not understood. In

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reply, Applicant has changed the language to “of.” Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Discussion of Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Callaghan (U.S. Patent No. 3,429,033). However, all pending Claims 1-14 are allowable over the prior art reference as discussed below.

Amended Claim 1 recites, among other things, a plurality of first elongate elements (2) and a plurality of second elongate elements (3) forming a grid structure (1). However, Callaghan does not disclose the above-indicated feature.

Callaghan discloses a hollow, rectangular elongate supporting structure (1) and a plurality of rods (11, 15 and 16) inserted into the structure (1) via holes (3, 4 and 5), respectively. *See Figures 1 and 7.* The Examiner asserted that the structure (1) of Callaghan corresponds to the first elongate element of the claimed invention. However, Callaghan does not disclose a plurality of first elongate elements of the claimed invention since the structure (1) is a single element. Furthermore, Callaghan does not disclose a plurality of first elongate elements and a plurality of second elongate elements *forming a grid structure*. That is, in the claimed invention, the plurality of first elongate elements and the plurality of second elongate elements form a grid structure as exemplified in Figure 1. Callaghan at best shows the supporting structure (1) containing the plurality of rods (11, 15, 16), but does not disclose the claimed grid structure. *See Figure 7.* Thus, Callaghan does not disclose “*a plurality of first elongate elements (2) and a plurality of second elongate elements (3) forming a grid structure (1)*” recited in amended Claim 1.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that Callaghan does not disclose all of the limitations of Claim 1, as amended. Thus, Callaghan does not anticipate amended Claim 1. Claims 2-14 depend from base Claim 1, and further define additional technical features of the present invention. In view of the patentability of their base claim, and in further view of their additional technical features, the dependent claims are patentable over the prior art reference. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. : 10/800,391
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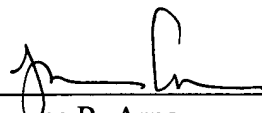
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any remaining concerns which might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the indicated telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 5/13/05

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